Message Text

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E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: CASC, PINS, SNAR, TU

SUBJECT: TURKISH HIGHER COURT REVERSES DRUG SMUGGLING
CONVICTION OF GERMAN NATIONAL ANGELA WINCKLER

1. IN A SURPRISE DECISION THE SUPREME COURT OF APPEAL
(YARGITAY) ON MARCH 3 UPSET THE IZMIR CRIMINAL COURT CONVICTION OF ANGELA WINCKLER ON CHARGES OF ATTEMPTING TO
SMUGGLE A LARGE QUANTITY OF HASHISH OUT OF TURKEY LAST
SUMMER. AFTER A TRIAL WHICH HAD ATTRACTED CONSIDERABLE
INTEREST IN THE GERMAN AND TURKISH PRESS BECAUSE OF MISS
WINKLER'S YOUTH (17 YRS) AND BEAUTY, THE LOWER COURT IN

PAGE 2 RUFLAEA2656 C.O.N.F.I.D.E.N.T.I.A.L.

DECEMBER, 1976 HAD CONVICTED HER AND HER BROTHER ANGELO OF OF CONSPIRACY AND SMUGGLING AND SENTENCED ANGELO TO LIFE IMPRISONMENT AND ANGELA TO 16 YEARS 8 MONTHS. THERE WAS A GENERAL IMPRESSION THAT THE WINCKLERS HAD ESCAPED THE IMPOSITION OF THE STATUTORY DEATH SENTENCE AND MISS WINCKLER HAD BEEN GIVEN THE LIGHTER SENTENCE BECAUSE OF HER BROTHER'S WILLINGNESS TO ASSUME SOLE RESPONSIBILITY, AS WELL AS BECAUSE OF MISS WINCKLER'S YOUTH. THE SUPREME COURT'S JUDGEMENT NOW THAT ANGELA WINCKLER IS INNOCENT MAY HAVE BEEN BASED ON THE SAME PREMISES.

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2. MISS WINCKER'S LAWYERS, ACTING PROMPTLY ON THE SUPREME COURT RULING, OBTAINED THEIR CLIENT'S RELEASE FROM BUCA PRISON NEAR IZMIR ON MARCH 4. THE GERMAN CONSULATE GENERAL HAD PLANNED TO REPATRIATE HER IMMEDIATELY, A PRACTICAL MOVE BUT ONE OF QUESTIONABLE LEGALITY, SINCE THE IZMIR COURT STILL HAD THE OPTION TO ENTER ITS OWN APPEAL AGAINST THE SUPREME COURT RULING. IN THE MEANTIME IT SEEMS THAT MISS WINCKLER

HAS NOT BEEN GIVEN HER PASSPORT BEING HELD BY THE POLICE NOR AUTHORIZED TO LEAVE THE COUNTRY.

3. ACCORDING TO THE PRESS, ANGELA WINCKLER IS NOW IN ISTANBUL

PAGE 3 RUFLAEA2656 C O N F I D E N T I A L STAYING AT THE GERMAN CONSULATE GENERAL. THE IZMIR CRIMINAL COURT IS PREPARING TO LODGE ITS APPEAL WITH THE SUPREME COURT. MOFFETT

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